

The amendment filed on 3/25/08 is entered and made of record.

REASON OF ALLOWANCE

Claims 1 – 15 are allowable.

With regards to claim 1, the examiner cannot find any applicable prior art and/or suggestions disclosing when a new face image is stored in the storage means subsequently, the abstraction means restores to the original image abstracted by the abstraction process means in the storage means, the detection means detects face images from the restored original image, and the determination means determines whether a face image in the restored original image detected by the detection means matches with the new face image stored subsequently in the storage means by comparing both face images in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 1.

With regards to claims 5 - 7, 12 - 15, see the rationale for claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALEX LIEW whose telephone number is (571)272-8623. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM - 7:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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6/5/08